

AP 10878

10/588829

SEP 26 10 09 AM '06

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Volker KNOP et al.

Int'l Application No.: PCT/EP2005/050574

Int'l Filing Date: 9 February 2005

Serial No.:

Group Art Unit:

Filed:

Herewith

Examiner:

For:

HYDRAULIC VEHICLE BRAKE

Attorney Docket No.: AP10878

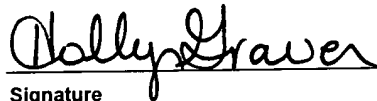
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Date: August 9, 2006

Name: Holly Graver

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Please amend the application as follows prior to examination on the merits.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-14 and add the attached new claims 15-28.